

A shallow nursery site for juveniles of the commercial sea cucumber *Cucumaria frondosa* was discovered and described in Qikiqtait (Nunavut). Individuals between 0.9 and 40 mm long were found in the channel of Kataapik, living attached to live blue mussels, empty mussel shells and stones, at a depth ranging between 1.8 and 2.5 m. The density of juveniles in the nursery of Kataapik ranged from only a few individuals up to more than 100 per square meter. Individuals measuring less than 2 mm were considered as early recruits (= individuals less than 1 year old), while the longest juveniles (~40 mm) were estimated to be 4 years old. Early recruits and juveniles used different parts of the nursery habitat. Early recruits were found sheltered within mussel clumps or between live mussels. As they grew larger (over 9 mm), they moved onto more open surfaces, such as empty mussel shells or stones. No adults were observed in the nursery. Protecting these nursery environments is therefore important for sustaining healthy sea cucumber populations and fisheries.

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